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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR (Black Sea)

DATE DISTR. 10 June 1955

SUBJECT Port of Batumi

NO. OF PAGES 3

PLACE
ACQUIRED NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW) 25X1DATE OF
INFO. SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY USSR REPORTTOPIC Observations in Batum Harbor (Black Sea)EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1DATE OF CONTENT DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 15 April 1955 25X1REFERENCES PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 25X1REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

1. At 1700 local time on 4 February 1955, a ship coming from Tuapse put 25X1
into Batum harbor and left this port at 2200 on 5 February 1955. She
bunkered oil at the west end of the inner side of the oil jetty. Two Soviet
tankers, each of about 8,000 dwt, were moored alongside the town wharf
of the harbor. One of them was named Tula and the two ships were
apparently less than one year old. The tanker Tula which had been lying
at the west end of the town wharf, left port at about 2100 on 4 February
1955, apparently after bunkering. The cargo supervisor stated that ships
which only put in for bunkering had to refuel at that wharf. The
second tanker put to sea in the course of the night. The number of
pipelines running along the jetty could not be identified as they were
hidden under a cement cover. The cement cover seemed to be of recent
construction, judging from the freshness of its color. Clearing-out
formalities were performed without difficulties.
2. On the late afternoon of 4 February 1955, 25X1
Two soldiers wearing flat caps with a green band around and armed
with pistols, were posted at the ship.
 around the harbor 25X1
 No
police in blue uniform were seen the
custom house, was guarded by two unarmed sentries,
who could not be identified as they were standing inside the entrance 25X1
gate and it was getting dark. From the position of the custom house,
only earth walls were visible in the direction of the fortification
area, and it seemed as though this district was no longer considered
a fortification. No sentries were observed.
3. several 25X1
streets on which considerable pedestrians traffic. The
ratio of civilians and soldiers was about 20 to 1. The soldiers
generally walked about in groups of two, three or four. Only a few soldiers
were accompanied by women, in which case the couples always walked
arm in arm. All soldiers seen in the street, wore black bordered
red epaulets. Only in one of the restaurants was a soldier with
red-bordered black epaulets and a gold badge observed. This soldiers
also wore a gold chevron on the sleeve of his uniform which, compared
with the other uniforms, had a brighter color of olive greenish blue hue.

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25X1

His cap was apparently covered and hanging on a hook. The interiors of the restaurants the observer visited were very poor with scrubbed tables and floors, on which ashes and cigarette stumps were lying about. The customers of the restaurants were in a reserved mood, although each of them had a bottle of vodka standing in front of him. Despite all efforts made to get in contact with the Soviets, no conversation was possible.

One of the restaurants was located opposite a tall building, which was guarded by sentries wearing fur caps. [REDACTED]

25X1

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Shore-leave was granted only until midnight in contrast to previous occasions. On the other hand, some crewmembers, who were half an hour late and apologised on ground of the snowstorm, had no trouble.

25X1

25X1

3. No Soviet war vessels were sighted at sea or observed in harbor. [REDACTED]

25X1

heard the droning of airplanes in a northerly direction, apparently from over the sea. No details could be made out because of poor visibility. The population of Batum also was far more stand-offish than before.

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